

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00631 241138Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----117198 241153Z /10
O 240916Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8903
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 0631

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV KSLUS
SUBJ: ROKG CONCERN OVER CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS

TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER EYES ONLY

REF: SEOUL 059)

SUMMARY: FONMIN CALLED IN CHARGE ON URGENT BASIS TO EXPRESS
DEEP CONCERN OVER RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION RE TONGSUN
PARK. SAID HE HAD THOUGHT AFFAIR ON WAY TO SOLUTION.
REQUESTED STATE EFFORTS TO BRIEF CONGRESS AND COOL
ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN VERY UNCHARACTERISTIC SHOW OF HASTE, FONMIN SUMMONED
CHARGE ON FIFTEEN MINUTE NOTICE TO DISCUSS RECENT EVENTS
IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORT ON
STATEMENTS MADE BY SPEAKER O'NEILL, FLYNT, AND BYRD AND
ON RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY A NUMBER OF YOUNG CONGRESSMEN.
HE SAUD THAT ROKG POSITON ON CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN WAS TO
SETTLE THE MATTER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND IN A FRIENDLY
MANNER. HE NOTED PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE AND THAT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00631 241138Z

QUESTIONING OF TONGSUN PARK WAS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY
IN SEOUL. FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO ROKG, ETHICS
COMMITTEE AND SOME CONGRESSMEN NOW TAKING AN APPROACH
THAT IS BOTH "PROVOCATIVE AND INSULTING."

2. FONMIN NOTED THAT SPEAKER HAD MET WITH AMBASSADOR
KIM PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR SEOUL. SPEAKER

HAD STRESSED NEED FOR ROK TO MEET DESIRES OF HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO HAVE TONGSUN PARK TESTIMONY. ROKG HAD GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO SPEAKER'S REQUEST AND WAS HOPEFUL ACCOMMODATION WOULD BE REACHED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN PAST ROK HAD NOT RESPONDED TO INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS MADE BY ETHICS COMMITTEE, IN PARTICULAR, THOSE OF MR. JAWORSKI. THIS POSTURE HAD BEEN ADOPTED IN HOPE THAT MATTER WOULD SETTLE DOWN AND SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED. ROKG WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING THIS END.

3. FONMIN SAID DEVELOPMENTS OF LAST TWO DAYS MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR ROK TO CONTINUE HOPE FOR COOPERATION. IN PARTICULAR, DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINS QUOTE ASTONISHING END QUOTE WORDS AND THE CONTENTS ARE UNUSUAL. RESOLUTION CALLS NOT ONLY FOR APPEARANCE BY TONGSUN PARK BUT ALSO BY FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO AND OTHER ROK OFFICIALS. WHILE FONMIN SAID HE COULD NOT BE SURE OF REASONING BEHIND THESE TACTICS HE MUST ASSUME THAT INTENT WAS TO EXERT PUBLIC PRESSURE ON ROKG. HE SAID SUCH TACTICS WOULD NOT INDUCE COOPERATION BUT WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT IN SEOUL. IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT ETHICS COMMITTEE ATTEMPTING CLOSE DOOR TO COOPERATION IN A MANNER THAT IS BOTH UGLY AND UNFRIENDLY. WHILE STILL INDICATING RESTRAINT WOULD BE EXERCISED, FONMIN STATED THAT CONTINUED TACTICS OF THIS NATURE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SEOUL 00631 241138Z

WOULD, WITHOUT DOUBT, EVOKE ROKG REACTION WHICH WOULD MAKE FURTHER HANDLING OF THIS MATTER MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

4. FONMIN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD ADVISE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE OF ROK REACTION TO EVENTS OF LAST TWO DAYS. FURTHER, THAT BRIEFING COULD BE PROVIDED ON COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE BEING DEMONSTRATED BY ROKG AND FACT THAT AMBASSADOR KIM WOULD HAVE POSITIVE RESPONSE FOR SPEAKER ON TONGSUN PARK TESTIMONY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

5. CHARGE URGED CONTINUED RESTRAINT BY ROKG UNTIL DEPARTMENT HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF CONGRESS ON RECENT DECISIONS TAKEN IN SEOUL. HE NOTED THAT EVEN THOUGH RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY EVER REACH THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE. FONMIN RESPONDED THAT LANGUAGE ITSELF WAS OBJECTIONABLE WHETHER OR NOT RESOLUTION EVER REACHED VOTING STAGE.

6. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT STATEMENTS BY CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING SPEAKER, AND RESOLUTION WORDING HAVE GREATLY UPSET ROKG. FONMIN WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED

BY FACT THAT SPEAKER HAD MADE A REQUEST OF AMBASSADOR
KIM AND THEN HAD GONE ON THE OFFENSIVE WITHOUT WAITING
FOR A REPLY. THIS DISTRESS UNDOUBTEDLY HEIGHTENED BY
FACT ROKG SAW ITSELF AS HAVING TAKEN DECISION TO
ACCOMMODATE SPEAKER'S REQUEST. URGE DEPARTMENT MAKE
EFFORT TO BRIEF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON
POSITIVE ATTITUDE BEING SHOWN BY ROKG AS OUTLINED
REFTEL AND ON REACTION TO RECENT EVENTS IN WASHINGTON
HERE IN SEOUL:
STERN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 Jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 Jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL00631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780035-0402
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780129/aaaaaxvx.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 35e2a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 78 SEOUL 59
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 May 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3722809
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROKG CONCERN OVER CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER EYES ONLY
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
To: STATE TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/35e2a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014